

Status Report on the Asbestos-Related Health Care Project

November 14, 2002

SDMS Document ID



2022524

What is the Asbestos-Related Health Care Project (ARHCP)?

ARHCP is a non-profit corporation formed to receive and administer the expenditure of \$2.75 million received from W. R. Grace. The money comes from a legal settlement (Consent Decree) between W.R. Grace and the EPA related to mine access. W.R. Grace paid the money into a special fund for asbestos-related health care not covered under the Grace Medical Plan. The money is currently held in escrow until W. R. Grace and ARHCP sign an agreement and a health care administrator is selected by ARHCP.

Who administers this money?

ARHCP is responsible for the administration of the money, but it will do this through a third party administrator (TPA). The TPA must have expertise and experience in health care plans.

When will this money be available?

The money in escrow will be made available to ARHCP after it has signed an agreement (Agreement) with W. R. Grace. That should happen within two to three weeks. However, the money will not be available to pay benefits until after ARHCP has selected a TPA. The TPA must be selected within 60 days after the Agreement is signed. After the TPA is selected, ARHCP must approve a medical plan with the TPA within 120 days after the Agreement is signed. The medical plan must be implemented within 150 days after signing the Agreement. Benefits will be available to eligible individuals after the plan is implemented.

Who will be eligible to receive benefits?

The Plan will pay the screening costs for people who are screened using the same eligibility guidelines that the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) used in 2000-2001. The Plan will pay if the screening does not indicate the presence of an asbestos-related disease. The Grace Medical Plan will only cover screening costs if a person is determined to be suffering from an asbestos-related disease. The Plan will also pay some medical/health care costs. People who have lived or worked within a 20-mile radius of the Libby mine or mill for a minimum of six months prior to January 1 of 2000 and who meet the qualifying conditions set forth in the Grace Medical Plan are eligible.

What types of health care will be covered?

There are two categories of benefits. One is related to screening, and the other is related to medical/health care costs. The ARHCP will pay for asbestos-related disease screening (x-rays and lung function test) that is not covered under other programs. In addition, for people who have a qualifying condition under the Grace Medical Plan, certain medical services will be covered that are not covered under the Grace Plan.

Some examples of proposed supplemental coverages are:

- nursing home care
- prescription drugs
- home health care

Whom can I call if I have other questions or want to get a status update?

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